

WE CLAIM:

1. A dried pet food comprising a matrix comprising a protein source, a carbohydrate source, insoluble fiber and the dried pet food having an unstriated 5 appearance and comprising a length of at least 15 mm, a width of at least 13.5 mm, and a thickness of at least 12 mm, the length being greater than the thickness.

2. The dried pet food of Claim 1 wherein the protein source comprises denatured protein.

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3. The dried pet food of Claim 1 wherein the carbohydrate source comprises gelatinized carbohydrate.

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4. The dried pet food of Claim 1 wherein the insoluble fiber comprises approximately 2% to about 15% by weight of the matrix.

5. The dried pet food of Claim 1 wherein the insoluble fiber is a cellulose fiber.

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6. The dried pet food of Claim 1 wherein the product does not include a humectant.

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7. A dried pet food comprising a matrix comprising a protein source, a carbohydrate source, an insoluble fiber and the dried pet food having an unstriated appearance and a density of less than 20.5 lbs/ft³.

8. The dried pet food of Claim 7 wherein the protein source comprises denatured protein.

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9. The dried pet food of Claim 7 wherein the carbohydrate source comprises gelatinized carbohydrate.

10. The dried pet food of Claim 7 wherein the insoluble fiber comprises approximately 2% to about 15% by weight of the matrix.

5 11. The dried pet food of Claim 7 wherein the insoluble fiber is a cellulose fiber.

12. The dried pet food of Claim 7 wherein the product does not include a humectant.

10 13. A dried pet food comprising a matrix comprising a protein source, a carbohydrate source, insoluble fiber, a density of less than 20.5 lbs/ft³ and the dried pet food comprising a length of at least 15 mm, a width of at least 13.5 mm, and a thickness of at least 12 mm, wherein the length is greater than the thickness.

15 14. The dried pet food of Claim 13 wherein the protein source comprises denatured protein.

20 15. The dried pet food of Claim 13 wherein the carbohydrate source comprises gelatinized carbohydrate.

16. The dried pet food of Claim 13 wherein the insoluble fiber comprises approximately 2% to about 15% by weight of the matrix.

25 17. The dried pet food of Claim 13 wherein the product does not include a humectant.

30 18. A dried pet food comprising at least 25% by weight of a kibble having an unstriated appearance and comprising a matrix having a protein source, carbohydrate source, insoluble fiber, and a density of less than 20.5 lbs/ft³.

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19. The dried pet food of Claim 18 wherein the matrix has a length of at least 15 mm, a width of at least 13.5 mm, and a thickness of at least 12 mm.

20. A method of reducing calculus and plaque build-up on a pet's teeth comprising the step of chewing on dried pet food having an unstriated appearance and comprising a matrix including a protein source, a carbohydrate source, insoluble fiber, and having a density of less than 20.5 lb/ft³.

21. A pet food comprising at least two different sized kibbles, one size kibble being larger than the other size kibble, and being present in a ratio of approximately 20 to about 80% to approximately 80 to about 20% by number large to small kibbles, and at least one kibble having an unstriated appearance and a density of less than 20.5 lb/ft³.

22. The pet food of Claim 21 wherein at least one of the sized kibbles has a length of at least 15 mm, a width of at least 13.5 mm, and a thickness of at least 12 mm.

23. The pet food of Claim 21 wherein at least one of the sized kibbles does not include a humectant.

24. The pet food of Claim 21 wherein the ratio of large to small kibbles is 20 to 50 by number percent.

25. A method for making a dry pet food comprising the steps of extruding through a non-laminar flow a protein source, carbohydrate source, and an insoluble fiber source to create a dry pet food having an unstriated appearance and having a density of less than 20.5 lb/ft³.

26. The method of Claim 25 wherein the kibble has a length of at least 15 mm, a width of at least 13.5 mm and a thickness of at least 12 mm.

27. The method of Claim 25 wherein the insoluble fiber comprises approximately 2% to about 15% by weight of the matrix.

5 28. A dried pet food comprising a protein source, a carbohydrate source, an insoluble fiber source and having an inner cellular structure that is created by a non-laminar flow extrusion process.

10 29. The dried pet food of Claim 28 wherein at least one of the sized kibbles has a length of at least 15 mm, a width of at least 13.5 mm, and a thickness of at least 12 mm.

15 30. The dried pet food of Claim 28 wherein at least one of the sized kibbles does not include a humectant.

31. A dried pet food comprising a protein source, a carbohydrate source, an insoluble fiber source and having an inner cellular structure that is characterized by a large number of microscopic air pockets.

20 32. The dried pet food of Claim 31 wherein the interior includes circular pores.

33. The dried pet food of Claim 31 wherein the interior has a sponge-like structure.